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Afghanistan

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Abbreviations

AGO	Attorney General Office
AIHRC	Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission
A-SDGs	Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals
CFT	Counter Financing of Terrorism
DiREC	Displacement and Returnees Executive Committee
EVAW	Elimination of Violence against Women
GoIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HDC	High Development Council
HPC	High Peace Council
ICC	International Criminal Court
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IEC	Independent Election Commission
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoHRA	Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs
MoIC	Ministry of Information and Culture
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSAMD	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disables
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoRR	Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
MoRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NDS	National Directorate of Security
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations

I. Introduction

1. The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA), in accordance with its national and international commitment is obligated to the implementation of international human rights conventions as well as its reporting to the international monitoring mechanisms. One of the important monitoring mechanisms of United Nations is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

A. Process for the preparation of the report

2. Upon receiving the recommendation from 2nd UPR cycle in 2014, the Afghan Ministry of Justice (MoJ) as a responsible entity is tasked to disseminate the report for all afghan government departments and hold seminars and workshops for all line-ministries throughout the country to realize the human rights values. MoJ during 2014–2016 conducted 9 national programs on awareness raising and consultancies for all relevant government departments. Furthermore, AIHRC as a National Human Rights Institute play vital role in awareness raising and holding trainings on human rights issues for all walk of society in all provinces of Afghanistan. Reporting of international human rights instruments is being prepared in a broad consultation including various government departments, AIHRC and national and international NGOs. An action plan was developed, which tasked the relevant ministries to implement the recommendations under the strict supervision of the Justice of Ministry.

3. The GoIRA presents its 3rd cycle report, based on the Human Rights Council's guideline (A/HRC/DEC/17/119). Furthermore, this report is focusing on the implementation of the recommendations, that Afghan government received after submitting its 2nd cycle report in 2014 and Afghanistan's voluntary pledges[1] that was placed during the candidacy in the Human Right Council. To prepare this report, the Afghan government has formulated three national committees to address the reporting to UPR as following:

- **Steering Committee:** Steering Committee is a leading body in reporting which inaugurates the reporting process, monitors the process which includes identification of obstacles and provides solution for challenges, and confirms the final report.
- **Technical Committee:** Technical Committee is a representative body composing of 36 members of governmental and non-governmental organizations that take part in assessing and group discussion on implementation of UPR recommendations and data providing for next report. This Committee then reflects the executives' measures of the government's departments in the report.
- **Drafting Committee:** Drafting Committee comprising of some Technical Committee members and reporting desk of human rights and women's international affairs of MoFA and Legal Adviser who are tasked to prepare the draft report based on guideline of reporting issued by the UN.

B. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycle and voluntary commitments

Cross cutting issues

Legal framework[2]

4. The Afghan government established 8 Development Councils, under the direct supervision of the Afghan President. The Councils are the highest decision making bodies within the State which coordinate the activities of all government entities in different sectors. The Council for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption is established in 2016 to reform the judicial system, strengthen the rule of law, observe the human rights, increase the access to justice and fight the corruption.

5. A wide range of legal changes took place in Afghanistan from 2014 to 2018 which led to following achievements:

2014:

- Criminal Procedure Code
- Children Guardianship Law
- Law on Prevention of Financing Terrorism
- Law on Money Laundering and Crime Proceeds
- Law on Structure of Jurisdiction of Especial Courts
- Mineral Law
- Law on Population Statics Registration
- Law on Commercial Contracts and Selling Property
- Law on Regulating Affairs Related to Acting Ministers and Directors of State Departments

2015:

- Law on Mourning Ceremonies
- Law on Geographical Signs of Production Points
- Law on Telecommunications Taxations
- Law on Military Higher Education Institutions
- Law on Passport
- Law on Banking of Afghanistan
- Law on Taxation Affairs Administration
- Law on Regulating Salaries of Governmental Officials
- Law on Travel and Residence of Foreign Citizens in Afghanistan
- Law on Civil Higher Education

2016:

- Power Services Regulation Act
- Law on Added Value Tax
- Law on the Rights of Members of Scientific Cadre of Legislative Affairs and Academic Legal Researches Institute and Other Similar Professional Cadres
- Law on Food Security
- Annex 1 to Criminal Procedural Code on Terroristic and Crimes Against National and Foreign Security
- Law on Procurement
- Law on Public and Private Participation
- Law on Regulation Affairs of Red Crescent Society(Afghani Red Crescent Society)
- Plant Variety Protection Act
- Animal Health Act (Veterinary)
- Agricultural Pesticides Act
- Law on Protection of Commercial and Industrial Secrets
- Law on Trade of Foreign Merchandise
- Law on Support of Design of Making Integrated Axises

- Customs' Act
- Law on Consumer Protection
- Law on Granting State Properties
- Law on Protection of Plants and Quarantine
- Law on Nuclear Energy
- Law on Processing Manner of Publication and Enforcement of legislative Documents
- Law on Anti-human and Emigrants Trafficking
- Election Law
- Law on Protecting the Rights of Author, Writer, Artist and Researcher (Copyright)
- Law on International Treaties and Conventions

2017:

- Law on Protection of Inventor and Discoverer Right
- Law on Managing Land Affairs
- Law on Personnel Affairs of Officers, Lieutenants and Sergeants
- Law on Expropriation
- Law on Protection of Domestic Industries
- Law on Urban Development and Housing
- Law on Wedding Ceremonies
- Law on Issuance of Legislative Decree
- Law on Prohibition of Torture
- Law on Gatherings, Strikes and Demonstrations
- Law on Declaration and Registration of Assets of State Officials and Employees
- Law on Prohibition of Harassment Against Women and Children
- Law on Combating Against Drugs and Narcotics

2018:

- Penal Code
- Annex (2) to Criminal Procedure Code on Implementation of Alternative to Imprisonment and Detention
- Law on Limited Liability Companies
- Insolvency Law
- Law on Managing Livestock Affairs
- Law on Regulating Flights of Military Aircrafts and Helicopters of Foreign States in the Air Territory of the Country
- Road Transport Law
- Law on Obtaining Rights
- Access to Information Law
- Administrative Procedure Law
- Social Protection Law
- Law on Cooperation with ICC
- Anti-corruption Law

- Whistleblowers Protection Law

6. In drafting and passing the above listed laws, all the international conventions which Afghanistan is a party to, have been incorporated.

7. Furthermore, Afghanistan has amended 30 more laws since 2014, and drafted Child Protection Law, Family Protection Law and Migration Law, to be passed by the Parliament.

8. In addition, since 2014, the Afghan Government has enacted the following regulations:

- Regulation on Management of Procedures Relating to Prevention
- Of Funding Terrorism
- Regulation on Bed and Surrounding of Water Resources and Water Infrastructures
- Regulation on Management of Detention Centers' Affairs
- Regulation of Extradition of Suspects and Accused and Transference of Convicts.
- Regulation on Support of Human Rights in Governmental Administration
- Regulation on the Privileges of Health Staff at Risk
- Regulation on Establishment and Activity of Private Mass Media
- Regulation on Evaluation of Environmental and Social Impacts
- Regulation on Managing Affairs Related to Unofficial Urban Estates
- Regulation on Women's Shelters

9. Besides, GoIRA has ratified the following international human rights instruments, since 2014:

- Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, in 2015;
- Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, in 2016;
- Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, in 2016;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, in 2018.

New penal code[3]

10. The new Penal Code was enforced by the President through a legislative decree in February 2018, which includes new crimes such as terrorism, cyber-crime, crimes related to elections, corruption, crimes of ICC statute and so on.

11. Reforming the Criminal Justice, the new code introduces alternatives to imprisonment and detention. As well as, the code has removed permission of honor killing to prevent arbitrary and illegal murders.

12. Death Penalty: the new penal code significantly reduces the number of crimes to which the death penalty applies. Most crimes that were punishable by death in previous penal code are now punishable by life imprisonment in the new penal code.

13. In addition, in 2018, the Attorney General has established a Special Committee to Review Cases of Death Penalty. The committee re-reviews each case of death penalty to ensure that all the required standards of a fair trial is considered. As of October 2018, the cases of death penalty have been reduced to 50%.

14. Furthermore, the Afghan President established a commission to review the cases of prisoners on death row. Following fact finding of the commission, they proposed to the president to change death penalty to life imprisonment.

Implementation of Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals[4]

15. Despite the challenges, the GoIRA has significant achievements on the MDGs. These achievements are developing public primary education; gender equality; women's

empowerment; reducing infant mortality; improving mother's health and combating polio, malaria and other epidemic diseases.

16. Afghanistan as a member of international community has been committed in the implementation of the SDGs. Therefore, GoIRA has drafted two national documents as document of localization of SDG and adaptation framework of SDG in 2018. In addition the GoIRA has prepared the SDG implementation plan. This plan will implement the SDG in three phases as follows:

- First phase: Localization of the SDGs
- Second phase: Adapting the SDGs with the national plans and programs
- Third phase: Implementation, monitoring and reporting.

17. To coordinate the activities of all relevant entities towards implementing the SDGs, the GoIRA has established an executive committee within Chief Executive Office of the government and a secretary within the Ministry of Economy. The committee has four technical working groups: Security and Governance; Agricultural and Rural Development; Health, Education, Environment and Social Protection and Economic and infrastructure development.

18. The Ministry of Economy as a lead ministry is responsible for coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SDG and reports annually to Afghan High Council of Ministers and then to UNGA. So far 4 reports have been presented.

Cooperation with ICC[5]

19. The New Penal Code criminalized 4 of crimes as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression preserved in the Rome Statute (in its article 332 – 343). Furthermore, in 2018, the Law for Cooperation with ICC has been enforced through legislative decree by the GoIRA. To facilitate the cooperation between Afghan government and the ICC. In addition a commission consist of a technical group led by Vice President was established in 2015, for collaboration with the visiting ICC delegation and channeling the communications with the Court. AGO and AIHRC submitted information regarding violation of crimes recognized under ICC Statute to this commission for further collaboration with ICC delegation.

Combating terrorism and funding it[6]

20. Afghanistan's Constitution in article 7 obliges the State to prevent all kinds of terrorist activities in its territories. To realize this aim GoIRA has passed the Law on Prevention Financing of Terrorism (PFT) in 2014, as well as to implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing Terrorism and other UN relevant international documents.

21. In addition to PFT law, as well as the new Penal Code Art. 263 – 283 prohibit terrorist activities and financing of that. It includes, suicide attacks, crimes against persons, use of explosive or lethal devices, dissemination or destruction of nuclear or radioactive materials, destruction of infrastructure, acts against airports, ships or fixed platform safety, control over an aircraft or ship, hostage taking for terrorism purposes, establishment of terrorist organizations and its membership.

II. Protection and promotion of human rights[7]

22. Article 6, 7 and chapter 2 of the Afghan Constitution oblige the State to observe, promote and protect human rights.

Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission[8]

23. Since 2018, AIHRC has an independent budget unit in the Afghan National Budget. It receives 18% of its budget from national budgetary system.

24. The (AIHRC) is mandated to protect and promote human rights situations across the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The AIHRC's main objectives are to monitor and verify human rights violations and to take appropriate measures in tackling the drivers of such violations.

25. The selection process of membership to AIHRC is based on Paris Declaration, AIHRC Mandates and Structure Law. All applicants who applied for the membership will be interviewed by board of selection consisting of civil society. From all applicants, 27 candidates will be selected by this board, then referred to President Office, from which 9 Commissioners will be selected for period of 5 years. Among them, 4 members shall be female.

Human rights units within state structure[9]

26. The GoIRA protects and promotes human rights by strengthening and establishing human rights units within the power structures as following:

- Legislative Power: the Commission on Women affairs, civil society and human rights in the Parliament;
- Judiciary Power: Division of Violence Against Women and Children in the Supreme Court review all cases of women and children rights violations;
- Executive Power: in all ministry of Afghanistan there is unit for promotion and protection of human rights across the country.

Legal Aid Department of the MoJ[10]

27. Among legal aid organizations, the GoIRA, in 2018, with assistance of IDLO has established the Afghan Legal Aid and Advocates Network (ALAAN). The aim of this network is to coordinate and unify activities of all relevant organizations, as well as to prevent duplication of cases. ALAAN holds regular monthly meeting to share information and identify priority areas for legal aid lawyers. For better functioning, the MoJ legal aid department, beside creation of 30 new positions, recruited legal aid lawyers, who are working on a draft National Policy.

28. Furthermore, the MoJ is running project of Legal Aid Grant Facilities (LAGF) which provides legal aid and works on capacity building of legal aid providers. So far, this project has provided legal aid for 11031 cases.

Human rights as part of educational curricula[11]

29. To promote awareness of human rights and facilitate sustainable change, the MoE has established a committee consists of representatives of AIHRC and other entities, for developing educational curricula by including human rights subjects and removing issues contrary to international human rights standards. So far, 116 titles books have been reviewed in cooperation with the AIHRC. As well as the MoHE included human rights subjects into all governmental and non-governmental universities and military academies curricula.

Strengthen human rights knowledge of law enforcement departments and judiciary system[12]

30. To strengthen the knowledge of law enforcement departments as well as the judiciary system, several trainings have been conducted. The AIHRC has been largely engaged in providing trainings for governmental officials, ANSF members, judges and prosecutors on human rights issue.

31. AIHRC conducted 32 educational seminars, 436 workshops to security forces, civil society and judicial institutions regarding human rights topics from 2014-2018. Moreover, it conducted two Conferences on Human Rights for Police Officers.

32. The MoI held 196 workshops for 5443 Police officers (1505 women) from 2015-2018, in Kabul and Provinces to educate police officers about torture prevention and human rights as well as, MoI held 115 training workshops for employees of family settlement units from 2013 to 2018.

33. In 2014, AIHRC and MOI have signed an MoU to train police officers in human rights subjects, particularly women rights and children. So far, 1200 police officers have received human rights education.

34. In 2017, AIHRC signed an MoU with MoD to educate the young officers and soldiers on the International Humanitarian Law, children and armed conflict, human rights, rule of engagement and protection of public places like schools, mosques and hospitals. Until 2018, more than 886 officers and soldiers have received the mentioned subjects, of which 150 are women.

35. To manage the penitentiary system based on human rights norms and standards, a training center has been established by MoI to train all personnel of prisons.

36. MoWA, as secretary of and in collaboration with all members of National High Commission on EVAW, has conducted awareness raising workshops about women rights as well as prohibition of violence against women and girls for 595 governmental and non-governmental employees in the capital and provinces during 2014–2015.

Cultivate and develop a culture of human rights among citizens[13]

37. To educate the public with human rights values, several trainings and awareness raising campaigns have been held by the government and non-governmental organizations during 2014-2018, as followings:

- MoJ has conducted 95 trainings for 2,164 individuals (1,612 men and 552 women) since 2013. It has also conducted training through its Legal Aid Department in different provinces on women and children rights.
- In 2018, the MoJ carried out awareness campaigns through 21 radio channels in 17 provinces. They broadcasted 9,100 episodes during 6 months.in 2014, 505 awareness programs; in 2015, 600 awareness programs and in 2016, 1,630 awareness programs have been produced and broadcasted by MoJ
- The MoHRA organized workshops for religious scholars on the social status of women, their right to education, right to choose their husband, violence against women and children rights. Furthermore, MoHRA printed 2,214 books in 2017–2018 about women rights in Islam and 2,000 books about "bad customary practices". They are also publishing monthly brochure on human rights topics.
- The AIHRC conducts a 15-day campaign each year on human rights. From 2014–2018, they conducted 2,754 trainings for illiterate and semi-illiterate individuals. AIHRC have printed 25,000 brochures, posters, and guidelines for children.

38. The national radio and television as long reach medium of communication promote human rights for all citizens, particularly in rural areas. Programs and short awareness videos are being broadcasted in the field of human rights, reduction of violence against women, elections, and women rights in Islam.

Engagement with national, regional and international partners[14]

39. Afghanistan was elected member of the Human Rights Council for the period of 2018–2020.

40. The GoIRA works toward contributing to the full implementation of the mandate of the Human Rights Council,[15] and strengthen its capacity.[16] It is fully committed to continue its cooperation with the UN and other international organizations, which includes sharing good experiences and practices with other countries as well as to support to fight against human rights violations.[17] High level delegations are taking part in the Human Rights Councils sessions such as the CEO Dr. Abdullah at the 37th session and General Attorney Hamidi at the 38th session in 2018.

41. The GoIRA has welcomed all special procedures mandate holders in recent years.[18] A standing invitation to members of Human Rights Council has been announced on 15 August 2017 to visit Afghanistan at a mutually convenient time.[19] From 2014 -2018, the following were invited: In November 2014 the Special Reporter on violence against women, its causes and consequences; in February 2016, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; and in October 2016, the Special Reporter on the human rights of internally displaced people, and the GoIRA invited Special Reporter for human rights defenders and education rights in 2017. The GoIRA furthermore welcomes request of special reporters. The visit of the reporter for Arbitrary Detention is being prepared for 2020.

42. Following dialogue between EU and Afghanistan on Human Rights which continued on bilateral cooperation on various subjects of human rights since 2018. They have entered a new stage in their bilateral relations in the Framework of Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development(CAPD). Under this agreement both sides had frank dialogue about important topics related to human rights, good governance and migration.

43. Human trafficking is a global challenge which claims 1 to 2 million persons worldwide. Around 225,000 children and women are victims of trafficking in South Asia region. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has made certain efforts to combat human trafficking at the region. As human trafficking is a cross border issue tackling with and finding out solution rests on common cooperation among all regional and global countries. Afghan government, as SAARC member and party to trafficking, collaborates with all regional countries to combat common challenges.

Afghanistan reporting status

44. Based on monitoring mechanism of international human rights conventions, GOIRA is obliged to submit its periodic reports on implementation of human rights conventions to the UN monitoring committees. It has submitted the Second Periodic Report on implementation of CAT in 2015, Midterm Report on CAT in 2018, and the Second to Fifth Periodic Report on CRC in 2018. The Third Periodic Report on CEDAW, the Initial to Second Periodic Report on CERD, the 2nd to 16th Periodic Report on CRPD, and the Initial Report on CRC 2 Optional Protocols will be submitted till the end of 2018.

45. The GoIRA strongly believes that the realization of human rights obligations requires a constant dialogue with the civil society and other stakeholders.[20] Therefore, the GoIRA continues to foster genuine participation and meaningful involvement of civil society and human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights.[21] The GoIRA provides healthy environment for activities of all national and international organizations to promote and protect the human rights. During preparation of the national report, GoIRA invites the non-governmental organizations to contribute in government reporting, as well as they write and submit their own shadow reports.[22]

46. The GoIRA furthermore, welcomes the recommendations of UNAMA and other international organizations reports and takes them under serious consideration for further actions.

47. The GoIRA is advocating for the establishment of regional human rights mechanisms within SAARC to promote and protect human rights in the region.[23]

III. Civil and political rights

A. Fundamental freedoms

Freedom of religion[24]

48. Art 2 of the Afghan Constitution states that "Followers of other faiths shall be free within the bounds of law in the exercise and performance of their religious rituals".

49. According to the Art. 323–325 of the Penal Code, the acts of insulting religion, disturbance of rites and attack to followers of any religion through words or actions are prohibited.

50. A Law on religious minorities has been drafted by MoJ to protect their rights and freedom.

Freedom of expression[25]

51. According to Article 34 of the Afghan Constitution, freedom of expression shall be inviolable.

52. The Public Media Law states that no censorship is allowed. The fact that we have more than 60 TV stations and newspapers, which are working without any censorship, underlines the importance of freedom of expression for the GoIRA. Afghanistan also has no journalists imprisoned.

53. The Access to Information Law from 2017 ensures that every citizen is able to receive information from government intuitions, as long as they are not classified. This law would help to build trust in government, transparency and fight corruption. A commission which monitors the implementation of access to information law has been established.

54. A system for information sharing on threats to media outlets and individual journalists has been established. The Journalist's Safety Committee for protection of journalists were created in 2017 under the leadership of the Vice President. It has followed up more than 1000 old cases of violence against journalists, which have been submitted to responsible government organs. Since 2017, 50 new cases have been investigated by members of the Committee.

55. The GoIRA is committed to ensuring a safe working environment for individuals engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights.

B. Rule of law and good governance[26]

Functional and independent judiciary[27]

56. Art. 116 of the Constitution state that "The judiciary shall be an independent organ of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan."

57. GoIRA initiated a number of judicial reforms since 2016 to amend the structure and human resources of judicial system. According to this initiative, the structure of judicial system shall be reformed, all laws and regulations shall be reviewed and amended according to the Constitution, the capacity of human resource shall be upgraded, anti-corruption program shall be in place, and transparency and accountability programs shall be implemented.

58. The Supreme Court created a High Committee for Judicial Appointment. This committee is responsible for new appointments and replacements of judges for further transparency and accountability.

59. GoIRA has established the Case Management System with assistance of the Justice Sector Support Program (JSSP), to manage all judicial cases, create accountability and transparency within judicial system, protecting case confidentiality, make coordination among law enforcement agencies and accelerate the proceeding of the cases.

60. For more transparency, the Supreme Court releases information about all final decisions on cases; it publishes two magazines and a bulk in in English.

Human rights of prisoners and detainees[28]

61. The GoIRA works towards maintaining justice and preventing torture of prisoners and detainees. It took further measures to uphold human rights of prisoners by enacting the law on prisons and detention centers, regulation on detainees and detention centers and currently it works on 4 years Strategy (2018–2021) to standardize all confinement facilities.

62. To protect the rights of prisoners and detainees, GoIRA has established the High Council of Prisons on the Secretariat of MoI, Department of Monitoring of Prisons and Detention Center within AGO, and Office of Human Rights in all prisons in Kabul and provinces. In addition, MoWA established a commission for reviewing cases of imprisoned women.

63. The Department for monitoring detention centers at the AGO is currently working 24/7 and visiting detention centers without any pre-notice.

64. The Department of Human Rights, Women Affairs and Children at MoI is responsible for monitoring the situation at prisons, including female detention centers. The MoI is under legal obligation to monitor and report the situation of mistreatment and torture at detention centers. Based on this monitoring procedure, 9 police officers were punished in Nimroz and Herat in 2017. These institutions offer literacy and human rights classes for detainees.

65. AIHRC has an agreement with Afghan Security organs, based on which they are able to meet detainees on a regular basis. Each year they meet about 2000 detainees and receive information about their living condition. From 2014–2018 they have visited different detention centers all over Afghanistan more than 4000 times. Confinement facilities and Police Units are being further monitored by AIHRC to prevent torture. Police officers who are suspect in torture and ill treatment of prisoners and detainees, had been introduce to the AGO for further investigation.

Prevention of torture[29]

66. Article 29 and 30 of the Afghanistan Constitution prohibits torture, inhuman treatment and cruel punishment and dismisses any confession obtained as a result of torture.

67. The provisions of the Convention against Torture have been incorporated in the Afghanistan new Penal Code. The Law on Prohibition of Torture was enacted in 2017, which based on its article 11 the GoIRA obliged to create the Commission on Prohibition of Torture. In 2018, the GoIRA acceded to the Optional Protocol to CAT without any reservation. From 2016-2018, 783 cases of torture have been registered from which 643 being under legal persecution.[30]

Anti- corruption[31]

68. The GoIRA is committed to fight corruption. The new Penal Code incorporated the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and punishes the perpetrators (articles 370 to 460). An Anti-Corruption Law and a Whistle Blowers Protection Law are drafted which will address the specific issues and protect the people who report the corruption cases of government officials.

69. The HDC for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption is responsible for overseeing two National Priority Programs (NPP), the Justice Sector Reform Program and Effective Governance Program. Among the most important achievements of the HDC in 2017 were the adoption of the Anti-Corruption Strategy (on 28 September 2017) and the adoption of institutional reform plans under the overall Justice Sector Reform Plan (on 22 June 2017).

70. The Afghanistan National Strategy for Combating Corruption sets five priorities: (1) Provide political leadership and empower reformers; (2) Eliminate security sector corruption, especially in the Ministry of Interior; (3) Replace patronage with merit in the

civil service sector; (4) Prosecute the corrupt and (5) Follow the money to make funding flows transparent, traceable, and subject to audit under a national charter of accounts.

71. The Anti- Corruption Justice Center has been established on June 2016. It is responsible to investigate high level corruption cases. This center includes a special court, a special prosecution office and a special police unit. Since the establishment of the Center, 373 cases have been investigated and 177 cases have been decided.

72. Furthermore, a department for judicial inspection was established. This Department is responsible for the oversight of judges. Beside this, it has a complaint mechanism, where every citizen can set a complaint against a judge.

73. Based on the Law on Declaration and Registration of Assets of State Officials and Employees, which was adopted by Presidential Decree No. 154, the assets of government officials shall be registered. The Law provides a system for assessment and registration of the assets of high ranking government officials, members of parliament and provincial councils to prevent the misuse and illegitimate enrichment of their assets. Till now 16,142 forms have been distributed and 9,875 have been received completed.

Electoral system[32]

74. The Afghan Election Law has been amended in 2016. A selection committee for election of commissioners has been appointed according to the Election Law. This committee reviewed more than 700 CVs and shortlisted 21 individuals for the IEC and 15 persons for the Electoral Complain Commission. The President, Chief Executive, Vice President, Attorney General and Chief of Supreme Court interviewed the candidates and selected 9 commissioners for the IEC and 5 for the Electoral Complain Commission.

75. The registration process for voters to the upcoming parliamentary and district council elections in October 2018 started on April 2018 and ended by June 2018.

76. Almost 9 million Afghans registered during this period. To ensure every citizen can vote, an MoU has been signed between the IEC and the General Independent Civil Registration Directorate, which shall ensure that 10 million Afghan citizens are getting ID card, to be qualified as voters. To avoid double voting, the voter needs to place his vote at the same center of registration. Election will take place in October 2018.

77. To make the electoral process more inclusive so that all citizens - including women - can exercise their right to vote. MoWA helped in issuing Afghan National Identity Cards (Tazkira) for all women, including the women in shelters, so that they could be eligible for taking part in the upcoming elections.

IV. Economic social and cultural rights

A. Right to access to the health services[33]

78. The GoIRA is fully committed to provide better health service for its citizens, in particular women, children and other vulnerable groups. Article 52 of the Constitution says: "The state shall provide free preventative healthcare for all citizens" It also has developed a National Health Strategy for 2016-2020. To strengthen and develop effective and sustainable practices of the health system for better access to quality healthcare services for all citizens.

79. MoPH has implemented a Health Policy for 2015-2020. The policy covers five areas: Governance (1), Institutional Development (2), Public Health (3), Health Services (4), and Human Resources (5).

80. Other important steps where the development of the National Strategy for Environmental Health, National Strategy for promotion of Sanitation, National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescence Strategy 2017-2021 have been prepared.

81. Additionally, MoPH is committed to comply and implement all relevant international documents such as Global Strategy for Women, Children and Adolescent Health, 2016-2030 and family planning.

82. Expansion of healthcare centers and healthcare services in Kabul and provinces. The followings are some important examples which are being implemented across the country:

- Hospitals such as cancer and tuberculosis centers have been increased from 10 in 2000 to 1937 in 2016. While 84% infected with tuberculosis could be treated in 2001, it has increased to 94% in 2016.
- The MoPH established 924 cente s in 34 provinces for malnutrition children. In 2016, around 162000 children have been treated, who were malnourished.
- To prevent young people contracting by AIDS, a national program for control of AIDS has been conducted. 7100 school students and 3126 university students have been trained on the hazards and risks of addiction and sexual transmitted diseases in 2016.
- Hospitals or Department for gynecology and obstetrics in Parwan, Balkh and Panshir have been established. Also 15000 health councils for men and women, responsible to create awareness among the people who are living in rural areas have been established.
- A department within the MoPH is responsible for production of medication, import of medicine and other health products. This department is also responsible to fight smuggling of low quality pharmaceuticals.
- Afghanistan has 432 health centers, 873 basic health centers, 27 provincial hospitals, 84 district hospital, 9 regional, 30 special clinics, 986 sub health centers and 242 mobile health workers.
- To reach people in remote areas, mobile health centers are being provided until permanent health service will be established.

B. Right to education[34]

83. According to the Constitution, educational law, rules and regulations of Afghanistan, all children, (including orphans, disabled children, children of returnees and IDPs), without any gender discrimination are entitled to enjoy free education up to the undergraduate level.

84. The MoE has developed its third National Education Strategic Plan (2017–2021) with its main goals: (1) Provision of pre-school education (50% of which is for girls), Provision of local educational classes and accelerated education for children left out of school (50% of which is for girls) (2) Increasing the ratio of girls' admission to technical and vocational institutions from 17% in 2015 to 26% by 2021 (3) Conducting on job trainings for newly recruited female teachers as well as provision of literacy courses for women and raising it from 60% to 100% by 2021 (4) Increasing the number of female literacy students from 53% in 2015 to 60% by 2021 and provision of emergency educational programs for children of IDPs and Repatriates. (50% of which is for girls) (5) Launching awareness raising programs on the importance of education for girls, provision of financial incentives and stipends for female teachers during on-job trainings (6) Provision of pre-work courses for female students and provision of Master's degree education for the instructors of teacher training institutions that include women (7) Provision of health services in the schools for both male and female and provision of literacy classes across the country aimed at increasing the rate of female admission in the literacy courses from 53% to 60% by 2021 (8). Increasing percentage of female teachers in Schools to 34%.

85. Beside this, MoE has different policies, such as Local Education Policy, Inclusive Education Policy, Pre – School Education Policy, Regulation on Home-Schooling Policy that facilitate the schooling of children.

86. The official statistics of the MoE states, the number of school students in Afghanistan, including private and public schools, reached 9,234,459 persons, of which 5,703,160 are boys and 3,531,299 are girls.

Women and girl education[35]

87. A national policy for girl education has been drafted by the MoE. This policy focuses on delivering quality education and awareness campaigns among the public.

88. The MoHE implemented a Strategy and Regulation which deals with women education in particular. Through these documents, women quota has been introduced, which is that 24% of all university students are girls in 2017.

Literacy and non-formal education

89. Literacy and non-formal education initiatives are being implemented by the GoIRA. The literacy committee, under the lead of the Vice-President, reflects the importance of literacy for the GoIRA. The national Literacy Strategy drafted by the Literacy Department of the MoE, consider the literacy goals set in the National Education Strategic Plan.

90. In the field of adult education, the GoIRA established a number of courses to educate the older generation: 16,697 literacy courses have been taken place, where 346,564 persons were taught to read and write. 144,816 adults have completed an intensive class. 57 % of them were females. 357 vocational training for 69,180 persons have taken place, 18 % of them were also females.

Education in rural areas[36]

91. The GoIRA tries to equalize the educational gap between urban and rural areas. More than 6,000 temporary classes with a small number of students have been established in 29 provinces in remote areas to ensure access to school for all children. 144,816 students (57 % of them are female) are being taught in these classes.

92. 3,000 female teachers have been sent out to remote areas to educate girls. The MoE special educational program named IQRA, enhances access to education and ensures the quality of education in 17 remote provinces, which are classified as low-level education areas for children, particularly girls.

School security[37]

93. The MoE has an operation plan, which includes school security. According to this plan, the MoE seeks the cooperation of all police Headquarters in Afghanistan in case of security challenges.

94. School Councils have also been established at all schools for safety and security of students and schools. It consists of 15 members, including teachers which monitor the security challenges and report to security force in case the need arises.

C. Right to an adequate standard of living

Poverty reduction[38]

95. The GoIRA Strategy towards poverty reduction follows two approaches. The Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) 2017-2021 works towards the improvement of growth and productivity with specific programs to help the poor to improve their skills and have better access opportunities to economic means, improved food security and better policies are the bottom-line pre-conditions for successful poverty reduction.

96. The GoIRA has established the Development Council of Infrastructure and High Council of Poverty Reduction in 2017 for implementing national programs of welfare, economic development, job creation, and utilization of natural resources, food security, and

other measures aiming at poverty reduction and finding out its root causes and reporting to the Afghani President.

97. Another mechanism is the Citizens' Charter National Priority Program, which was launched by the Afghan President in 2016. It will ensure the delivery of a basic package of services for 1/3 of the population by 2026. The Citizens' Charter aims to build united villages, neighborhoods and cities. In addition, it improves the relationship between the Government and its people by reducing poverty and providing basic services for all. It will ensure that all men, women, and children are included in the development initiatives and activities. Communities themselves will participate in planning, monitoring and implementation of project.

98. Based on community-led prioritization and gap analysis, communities will have at least one of the following: Basic electricity from renewable sources in remote areas which cannot be reached by the grid system; Basic roads to increase village to market access; or Small-scale irrigation and drainage infrastructure.

Economic and social development[39]

99. The HDC for Economy was formally established by Presidential decree number 20 on April 14, 2016. It facilitates coordination in development and implementation of economic and development programs and policies, reform measures for economic welfare and growth, budget formulation according to reform programs and government priorities, assistance with private sector, attracting investments in different sectors and regulation of foreign and domestic investments.

100. IDLG implemented a National Local Governance Policy. This policy shifts the authority of implementation of government programs and projects directly to the local government, which shall be responsible for the implementation by its own. Therefore, 8 zones have been established, which are being led through a rotation system by one governor, one head of district and one mayor at a time.

V. Specific groups[40]

A. Women[41]

Discrimination against women[42]

101. Art. 22 of the Constitution states that "... The citizens of Afghanistan, man and woman, have equal rights and duties before the law." Art. 218 and 409 Penal Code prohibits the Discrimination in Administration.

102. The existing Labor Law includes privilege for women such as a reduction to 35 working hours for pregnant women, a 3-month paid leave after delivery, no right of termination for pregnancy reason, and women are prohibited extra working hours, hard work and night shift.

103. The Gender Strategy of the GoIRA prohibits discrimination against women and rests on five pillars, each grounded in a cross-government action program: (1)Implementing global commitments on human rights, security, and freedom from domestic violence for Afghan women; (2)Ensuring full access to education and health services, including higher education; (3)Launching the Women's Economic Empowerment National Priority Program; (4)Securing the constitutional rights for women through the full execution of the laws; and (5)Advancing women in government and business.

104. The 2016 Anti-Women's Harassment Law prohibits any form of discrimination against women in offices and public places and provides specific measures to support the victims. Almost all Ministries drafted or implemented an Anti-Harassment policy.

Violence against women[43]

105. The Criminal Procedure Code 2014 and Penal Code 2018 have been ratified. Discriminatory human rights violating elements have been taken out and new provisions regarding protection of women's rights were included. The criminal procedures law enriches specific provisions on the victim's rights and protection of evidence. Beside the new penal code, the EVAW Law still remains enforced and the cases related to violence against women will be reviewed in accordance with this specific law.

106. Different measures for better implementation of the EVAW[44] Law have been taken in to account. These measures include the establishment of institutions, policies, regulations, training of judges, prosecutors, police, and other relevant employees as well as legal awareness campaigns for citizens. The AGO plans to draft a National Action Plan for the Implementation of EVAW Law in near future.

107. Following mechanisms are in place:

- Monthly meetings of the EVAW high commission and provincial commissions of all 34 provinces to monitor critical areas. Findings are being submitted to the relevant government departments and the President's office. Establishment of 28 women's shelters centers in Kabul and 20 in different provinces.
- Establishment of special units at all 34 Provincial Office of Attorney's for EVAW cases. In 31 provinces, units are just being led by women.
- Establishment of special EVAW units at the Supreme Court in Kabul and 15 provinces.
- Legal assistance centers and family dispute resolution units were established in 34 provinces under the police headquarters framework.
- A mediation department has been established at the AGO to mediate in family matters.
- The Supreme Court established special courts for EVAW cases in 22 provinces. Till 2020 all provinces will be having a special court for EVAW cases.
- A telephone hotline has been established for women and children in case of violence.
- On 11th of July 2016, the MoI established a complaint mechanism to prevent and respond to sexual harassment against women police officers.

Investigation of gender-based violence[45]

108. The AGO established a Deputy AGO for Elimination of Violence against Women & Children, which is led by a woman. This office has two sub-departments responsible for reducing violence against women and for its social consultants. Another department deals with women rights, victims and witnesses with help of IDLO.

109. The Afghanistan AGO established a monitoring mechanism on the implementation of EVAW law within its offices.

110. With support of IDLO the AGO established a database within the Deputy AGO for EVAW. This database includes all activities of prosecutors, the case itself and the work which has been done so far. Through this database, the Deputy GA can monitor his employees and held them accountable if needed.

111. Between 2014 and 2018, 5921 cases have been investigated. 4840 cases of violence against women have been addressed in the three-layer courts of the country based on the provisions of EVAW.

Women's empowerment[46]

112. The MoWA continues its efforts to place gender equality and women's empowerment in all national documents to reflect women's requirements. Therefore, in addition to the National Action Plan for Women, it has drafted for the first time a five-year

strategic plan for the period 2018–2022. It highlights the priorities of the Ministry and predicts the required resources and facilities. 2,228 Women received assistance from the MoWA for small businesses.

113. The creation of the Women Chamber of Commerce improves women's access to markets.

114. MoIC established a department for women's entrepreneurship and drafted a 5-year Plan from 2018–2022 for the empowerment of women entrepreneurs in the private sector. To improve women's empowerment, MoIC supports special exhibitions for women inside and outside Afghanistan, where women can exhibit their products. Furthermore, MoIC supports conferences In Kabul and several provinces on development and improvement of women's private entrepreneurship, where women can address and discuss problems and challenges they face to find a solution. MoIC designed a 5-year project, dealing with import and export of women products, enhancing the quality and design of Afghan products, and branding (made by Afghan Women). It is planned that 5,600 women shall receive support during this 5-years period. To support women in trade, small grant are being given to women to start their businesses or they are being given land in industrial parks. Furthermore, they are being provided support in access to raw material and benefit from a tax reduction.

115. MRRD shall ensure social, economic, and political welfare of rural society, especially poor and vulnerable people, through the provision of basic services, strengthening local governance, and promoting sustainable livelihoods. It created the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program for economic empowerment of women.

116. More than 760 private companies are being led by women, 400 women merchants are working on an international level.

Women, peace and security[47]

117. The National Action Plan for UNSC Resolution 1325 from 2015–2022 has been ratified by the Afghan Government on July 1, 2015. It consists of 4 pillars[48] and 39 indicators which empower women, ensures their participation in peace process and good governance.

118. Women's contribution in the High Peace Council has increased since 2015. The new HPC leadership has paid special attention to the value, respect, and importance of women's presence in the peace process which is one of the priorities of the HPC. One Deputy is a Woman and there are now 12 women out of 65 members. The HPC has 800 employees in Kabul and provinces, out of which 134 are women. The percentage of women has been increased from 11 to 22 percent at the provincial level.

119. Women representatives took part in peace negotiation in Oslo with Taliban in 2015.

Women in state institutions[49]

120. The Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) has implemented a policy aiming to increase the number of women by 2%. They furthermore have conducted awareness raising activities for female college students. It has furthermore created a CV pool of women eligible to apply for civil service positions to ensure equity in the Government. The gender representatives of Ministries and Independent Institutions are present during recruitment processes and in order to increase the ratio of women's recruitment, a 5% extra mark is considered for female applicants in accordance with the recruitment manual.

121. Women's representation in different areas:

- National Assembly 27%.
- Provincial Councils 20,9%.
- Cabinet 15%.
- Decision Making levels of the Government 10%.

- Health Sector 33%.
- Private Sector 21,7%.
- Government Agencies 26%.
- Judiciary 12%.
- Security Sector 1%.
- Decision Making levels of private sector 9,8%.
- Private Sector 21,7%.
- Economic Sector 6 %.
- The percentage of women at the AGO increased from 15 % 2017 to 23 % in 2018. It has 10 women directors. The AGO offered an internship for 241 women. 153 of them got a job at the AGO.
- The women percentage at the Supreme Court is 23 %.
- The 2016 Elections Law has taken into consideration the 25% women's quota in the district councils and stipulates that "At least 25% of the seats should be dedicated to women candidates in each district council".

B. Children

Protection of children[50]

122. To harmonize internal legislation with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the MoJ has drafted the Child Act with 15 Chapters and 106 articles. This draft of the Act is in compliance with the CRC and has been sent to the parliament for ratification. With the approval of this law, beside current laws that exist in Afghanistan, all provisions of the CRC will be codified, namely the provisions of the two Optional Protocols.[51] One of the effects of this law is to facilitate the implementation of regulations that belong to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

123. A Child Custody Law has been amended in 2014. According to this, 70 kids have been given to families for custodial care in 2017.

124. The MoLSAMD implemented a National Strategy for the protection of children, a National Strategy for social protection and a National Social Policy. Furthermore, it implemented a National Program for the protection children and an inclusive action plan for children. The development of a National Child Protection Program is in progress.

125. From 2014–2016, 138 children were deported from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan. These children were reunited with their families in Kabul. 668 children used for child trafficking got back and supported.

Children and criminal acts[52]

126. Section three of the Penal Code deals with Criminal Responsibilities of Children. Art. 94 Penal Code states that a child who has not reached the age of 12 is not criminally responsible. Art 95 deals with children between 12 and 16 years. Art. 96 with the children between 16 and 18 years. According to Art. 97, a child shall not be sentenced to death, imprisonment or fine.

127. Children cases are being investigated by a Special Juvenile Prosecution Department. They are only being arrested in case of existence of evidence regarding their felony or misdemeanor, if there is suspicion of fleeing, danger of elimination of documents and evidence and fear of repetition of the offence. At no circumstances children may be cuffed and they must be kept separate from adults.

128. The Central Department for Juvenile Education and Rehabilitation at MoJ is responsible to assist in the education and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. It provides general care for detained juvenile offenders, rehabilitates and educates detained

juvenile offenders, and provides basic necessities, such as food, shelter, clothing, and health facilities, for detained juvenile offenders.

129. MoHRA sends scholars to juvenile rehabilitation centers to teach them religious principles and raise awareness on the risk of fundamentalism.

Child marriage and forced marriage[53]

130. According to the civil law of Afghanistan, the marriage age is different for boys and girls. The marriage age for girls is 16 and for boys it's 18, as mentioned in the Official Gazette (353/1976). The marriage of a girl under 15 is not permitted.

131. To amend the age of marriage within the Civil Code in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. MoJ has prepared a law draft on family protection that will amend the marriage age for both girls and boys to be 18 years old. This draft will be passed by parliament in the near future.

132. MoHRA has issued 11 Fatwas (religious orders) from 2015 till 2018 dealing with the prohibition of child marriage.

Violence against children[54]

133. The new Penal Codes deals with different crimes committed against children. Art 89 of the Draft Child Act clearly states, that no child shall receive torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Teachers, who punish their students physically, will face legal actions.

134. To decrease violence against children through law enforcement institutions, in particular police, a Department for Children Complains has been established in each Police Headquarter in Kabul and provinces. Children arrested by the police enjoy legal support and can refer to this department in case of any complaint.

135. According to Article 677 Penal Code, the crime of "Bacha-Bazi" shall be punished if it is committed by an individual or a group of people. Furthermore, the Penal Code states in Article 637, the perpetrator or rape is sentenced to long-term imprisonment for the period of 16 to 20 years in case the victim of rape is under 18 years old and the offender is an adult. Art. 638 states that, if an adult male has intercourse with a child, his act is considered rape and victim's consent is invalid. An offender is sentenced to death if the rape results in the death of the child.

136. Several trainings for police forces as well as teachers took place to enhance their human rights knowledge and prevent corporal punishment and other violation of children rights.

Child labor[55]

137. Art. 613 Penal Code states that "A person who recruits a child in hard, physical, unhealthy or underground labors or night work or overtime work or forces him/her to travel for working shall be sentenced to fine from 10,000 AFN up to 30,000 AFN.

138. In 2014/2015, 84,000 children were taken off the street and put back to school or educational institutions. Furthermore, 794 families living close to brick kilns received trainings to empower them financially stable enough to enable them send their children return to school.

Children and armed conflict[56]

139. The Art. 605-608 of the Penal Code prohibits recruitment of children in military units.

140. A Child Protection Policy prohibiting the recruitment of children under the age of 18 in security forces was adopted in 2017. The policy has been sent for implementation to MoD & all recruitment centers. 508 children were rejected to join Afghan security forces in the first six month of 2017. MoI created commissions in all 34-provincial headquarters to prevent recruitment of children under 18.

C. Victims of war[57]

141. Based on the initiative of the GoIRA, the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was announced on August 21.[58]

142. The GoIRA is working towards the implementation of the National Policy on Civilian Casualty Mitigation and Prevention.[59] To monitor the process, a High Oversight Board and working group has been established to review the implementation of the policy and report to the leadership of the country.

143. Afghanistan joined the Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons concerning explosive remnants of war on 9th of August 2017 and it is effective since 9th February 2018.

D. Persons with disabilities[60]

144. The GoIRA is committed to ensure better protection for persons with disabilities, and to prioritizing efforts to ensure equal access to education for children with disabilities. 2, 7 % of the Afghan population is disabled.

145. Based on the Constitution, and the Law on Rights and Privilege of Disabled Persons, the GoIRA works towards empowerment and integration of persons with disabilities. A National Policy for Disabled Persons has been drafted. According to this policy, persons with disability enjoy all rights and responsibilities alike, without any discrimination.

146. The GoIRA provides persons with disabilities with land. In case they want to buy an apartment, the municipality lowers the price about 50 %. In 2017 the GoIR distributed 233 apartments to persons with disabilities. A quota for persons with disabilities has been established for government institutions and entities. 3 % of persons working within the government. 5 % of persons with disabilities shall be recipients of scholarships.

147. MoE established local intensive classes targeting children with disabilities. Even in places where there are no means and facilities with adequate teaching classes, mosques have been used as classrooms to maximize child enrollment and access to education. Due to the insufficient number of special schools, only 3,692 children with disabilities from different provinces have been enrolled in public schools so that they are not deprived of education. This program is being supported by international institutions, to enable MoE to deliver free educational packages for children with disabilities.

E. Refugees and returnees and internally displaced persons[61]

148. MoRR developed a 5-year Strategic Plan from 2015-2019. The Comprehensive Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration Strategy and the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons are key guides for Government. The MoJ works currently on a Draft of Refugee Law.

149. The GoIRA is committed to protect the rights of internally displaced persons and returnees and providing effective mechanisms for addressing their specific needs. The Policy Framework for Returnees and IDPs is a key instrument to guide government efforts to address the specific needs. It is therefore applicable to all Government ministries and agencies. This Policy Framework works towards a longer-term development intervention as well as humanitarian aid which are both needed to facilitate a durable solution for both returnees and IDPs.

150. The main objectives are:

- Ensure their safe and successful re-integration in Afghanistan.
- Returnees and IDPs should be assisted to find productive employment.
- Enhance and reform of documentation system.
- Impacts of Returnees and IDPs on host community are being considered.

151. The Action Plan addresses 6 key response areas including land allocation, documentation, access to services and longer-term integration/reintegration efforts has been endorsed by DiREC and the National Cabinet as of mid-March 2017.

152. Furthermore, a Sub-Committee on Migration Affairs has been established at the Council of Ministers. The Chief Executive is leading this committee. The Sub- Committee will be the main decision-making body on operational issues related to returnees and IDPs.

153. The IDP Policy group, which is chaired by the MoRR Deputy Minister, has a drafting body which is responsible for consultations on national, provincial and international level as well as with the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IMCC).

154. The national Policy for IDPs acknowledges that IDPs have the right to full access to basic health services and education, even if they have no national identity card or other educational documents. The MoE has instructed all its directorates in border provinces to enroll displaced children in schools. Parents should submit their documents within 3 months. In 2016, 17,000 students (30 % women) who returned from Pakistan were enrolled.

155. Since the beginning 2018, 2,648 Families (18,606 Persons) of IDPs, have been given food and shelter through the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

156. The GoIRA plans 62 townships all over Afghanistan for IDPs and Returnees, from which 22 are already built. Each township has a proper infrastructure, including, schools and hospitals.

F. New and emerging problems, including achievements and challenges associated with them

157. New era of international cooperation contributes to comprehensive approach towards global threats, such as air pollution and global warning. Paris Declaration on Climate Change 2015 is one of international responses to tackle common cause. Despite UN mandate to maintain international peace and security, unfortunately, terrorism and international conflict is still a bottleneck for international cooperation. I.R. of Afghanistan as victim of international terror networks pays by loss of life and property on behalf of all nations in a fore front of counter terrorism and needs more support and joint efforts to tackle unpleasant fact of terror.

G. Challenges which would require the support of the international community

158. Afghanistan has experienced an unprecedented return of refugees and internally displaced persons in recent months. The statistics show that 2018, 428,987 persons returned from their host countries. The country also faces a humanitarian situation caused by internal displacement owing to conflict and a large number of returning refugees. A closer coordination between national and international stakeholders is needed and financial support necessary.

159. The statistic of poverty shows an increase from 35, 8 % in 2011 to 54, 4 % in 2017. The reason for this rapid increase goes back to the withdrawal of international community and the security situation in Afghanistan. Due to a lack of government resources and international assistance, many children with disabilities still do not have access to special and standardized forms of education.

160. Presence of more than 20 international terrorist organizations which claims more lives daily in Afghanistan, damaging the new built-infrastructure and causing insecurity among public needs robust and concrete measures by all regional and international community. I.R. of Afghanistan as member of Human Rights Council declares once again that fighting terrorism, drug, smuggling and human trafficking are not the domestic challenges of a single country and demands international will and actions to overcome global problems.

Notes

[1] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (m) (n).
[2] Recommendation 3, 5 and 26.
[3] Recommendation 48, 82–84, 97, 118 and Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (b).
[4] Recommendation 43.
[5] Recommendation 166–168.
[6] Recommendation 81 and Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (p).
[7] Recommendation 1, 4, and 7.
[8] Recommendation 119–129.
[9] Recommendation 2, 9, 14, 17 and 19.
[10] Recommendation 85.
[11] Recommendation 11 and 174.
[12] Recommendation 173 and 175–177.
[13] Recommendation 8, 11, 18, 24, 130, 163, 170, 171, 174 and 177.
[14] Recommendation 12, 13, 20, 22, 23, 129 and 172.
[15] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (k).
[16] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (o).
[17] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (r).
[18] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (l).
[19] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (l).
[20] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (q).
[21] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (i).
[22] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (q).
[23] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (j).
[24] Recommendation 61–63.
[25] Recommendation 77–80 and Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (h) (p).
[26] Recommendation 15, 39 and 89.
[27] Recommendation 46, 47, 103 and 106.
[28] Recommendation 49, 104 and 105.
[29] Recommendation 82 and 84.
[30] Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (a).
[31] Recommendation 46.
[32] Recommendation 91.
[33] Recommendation 25, 27, 37, 44, 64–66, 108 and 109.
[34] Recommendation 28 and 65–68.
[35] Recommendation 86–88.
[36] Recommendation 94 and 110.
[37] Recommendation 113.
[38] Recommendation 35, 38, 40, 42 and 50.
[39] Recommendation 36.
[40] Recommendation 10.
[41] Recommendation 55, 56, 102 and Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (p).
[42] Recommendation 94, 95, 96 and 178.
[43] Recommendation 6, 21, 54, 101, 131–159,165..
[44] Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women.
[45] Recommendation 134–136, 140, 147, 152, 153 and 161–164.
[46] Recommendation 51–53, 57, 58, 60, 154 and Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (e).
[47] Recommendation 59, 69–74, 90, 98, 99, 131, 156 and Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (d).
[48] Participation, Protection, Prevention, and Relief & Recovery.
[49] Recommendation 92, 93, 99 and Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (e).
[50] Recommendation 6, 21, 107–109, 112, 130 and Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (c).
[51] The Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict/The Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.
[52] Recommendation 165.
[53] Recommendation 75, 76, 100 and 160.
[54] Recommendation 16, 112, 158 and 159.
[55] Recommendation 111.
[56] Recommendation 16, 114–116 and 169.
[57] Recommendation 45.
[58] A/C.3/72/L.24.
[59] Recommendation 117 and Voluntary Commitments A/72/377 Nr. 4 (f).
[60] Recommendation 29, 30 and 37.
[61] Recommendation 31–34.